SAGE PUBLICATIONS, INC. / *275 South Beverly Drive* *Area Code 213*
Beverly Hills, Calif. 90212 *274-5979*

Release date: March 25, 1968

For further information, contact: Sara Miller or Rick Blair (telephone no. above)

STUDY OF NEGRO OPINION LEADS TO PREDICTION OF MORE BLACK VIOLENCE

BEVERLY HILLS: The rash of civil disorders which has spread in American cities during the last few years will not end soon, without fundamental changes in the urban American social structure, according to two sociologists writing in a special issue devoted to urban violence of The AMERICAN BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST, a research-oriented journal in the social sciences.

The sociologists, WILLIAM McCORD, Professor of Sociology at Rice University, and JOHN HOWARD, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon, cited some significant findings from a three-cities study, which contradicts popularly-held impressions concerning black violence.

Published in the March-April issue of ABS and entitled "Negro Opinion in Three Riot Cities," the study concerns itself with negro opinion about police, housing, desegregation and schools in Watts, Oakland, and Houston. Data was taken from surveys of negroes in the three ghetto areas prior to the violence that overtook those cities.

The results of the study showed an unexpected unanimity in the opinions expressed by urban Negroes. The authors listed dissatisfaction with the speed of integration in both northern and southern cities as one sign of that increasing consensus among Negroes. Findings indicated that there is only a small minority of urban Negroes totally against violence under all circumstances. Discontent is not limited to the young or just to the men, the researchers said.

More important, the sociologists noticed signs that the white-collar Negro is becoming more interested in the Negro community as a whole. And, since it

was this group which has previously kept the urban "lid" on, there are indications that white city fathers should pay increasing attention to the grievances articulated by the better-educated white-collar groups.

The report said that although religion seemed to exert a quieting effect upon urban Negroes, only a miniority of those surveyed exhibited great interest in traditional religion, and the indications were that the number of religionless Negroes, due to urbanization, is growing. This would point to the likelihood, say the authors, that things are going to become hotter in the city ghettos before cooling off.

McCord is author of The Springtime of Freedom, and Mississippi: The Long Hot Summer, and Howard has done extensive research on the Black Muslims. Jointly, they are preparing a book on the urban Negro.

The special issue of ABS is available at $3.50 a copy (quantity discounts are available for educational and bulk orders) from Sage Publications, Inc., 275 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90212.